

October 1, 2021

Employers and Employees in York Region:

Clearance Letters: Returning to work after testing positive for COVID-19

York Region Public Health follows the Ontario's Ministry of Health [Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#). Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 are **not required** to receive a clearance test or letter from Public Health to return to work or daily activities after their self-isolation period has ended.

The provincial guidance states:

- Workers are **not required** to provide proof of a negative test result or a positive serological test result to their employers to return to work
- It is expected workers who have tested positive abide by public health direction and advice on when they would be considered clear to return to work
- Return to work for employees who are self-isolating due to a high-risk exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 can occur after the end of their self-isolation period (typically 10 days)

An asymptomatic individual that has previously had laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and was cleared should generally not be re-tested due to the potential for the COVID-19 test to continue to detect the virus, even though they are no longer able to infect others.

For the majority of cases, [self-isolation](#) for positive cases of COVID-19 should last for 10 days from the beginning of symptom onset or from the date of positive result if the individual remained asymptomatic. [Self-isolation](#) after an exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 should last for 10 days but could require more than 10 days off work should symptoms develop during isolation (i.e., the close contact becomes a case).

Finally, when an individual becomes a case, York Region Public Health provides these individuals with comprehensive information including details about the infection, steps they should be taking while self-isolating and the date they would be considered cleared based on their symptom onset date or date of positive test if asymptomatic. This information can be viewed at york.ca/COVID19Positive. York Region Public Health does not issue separate clearance letters for individuals for return to work purposes.

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